



# **COVID-19 Discussion with Texas Library Staff**

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# Introductions



Mark Smith, State Librarian



Gloria Meraz, Asst. State Librarian



Katherine Adelberg,  
CEC Manager



Naomi DiTullio,  
Distance Learning



Cindy Fisher,  
Digital Inclusion



Kyla Hunt,  
Library Management



Henry Stokes,  
Library Technology



Laura Tadena,  
Inclusive Services



# Mark Smith, State Librarian



## **Libraries as community anchors**

In times of crisis, libraries can promote a sense of:

- Safety
- Self--and community--efficacy
- Connectedness
- Calming
- Hope



# Mark Smith, State Librarian



Libraries can take these actions:

- Develop and provide materials with coping tips and self-care facts
- Direct people to resources that provide authoritative information
- Disseminate information that promotes social connectedness, calming, and hope
- Provide guidance about building resilience

From: U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs, PTSD: National Center for PTSD

[https://www.ptsd.va.gov/covid/COVID\\_providers\\_comm\\_leaders.asp](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/covid/COVID_providers_comm_leaders.asp)



# Mark Smith, State Librarian



Among the questions we are hearing:

- "How can we effectively serve people who do not have devices?"
- "What can we do to help small businesses recover?"

Get acquainted with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)

- Funding for small business development
  - For more information, search for "SBA CARES Act"
- Funding for library-based programs
  - TSLAC will be providing more information as we have it



# Gloria Meraz, Asst. State Librarian



## TSLAC Approach

- Calm, factual, and direct
- Speak to all our audiences, understand crisis communication is processed more slowly and is more easily subject to misinterpretation
- Demonstrate how we are balancing safety priorities, service needs, and expectations of governing authorities
- Show solidarity and certainty in what we know - our commitment to our public and staff
- Be up front about the need for flexibility
- Be comfortable with what we don't know and reassure that we will deal with evolving situation
- Messaging broadly to the public while providing customized messaging for particular audiences
- Update frequently
- On all fronts – using all our communications platforms to reach people in multiple ways

## TSLAC Activities

- General messaging: <http://www.tsl.texas.gov/services>
- Resources and updates for specific audiences
- Connecting
- Showcasing the good – great services and resources
- TSLAC Facebook boosted post: “Can’t go to the library? The library can come to you!”



# Resources for Library Workers

**TSLAC Plan for Services During COVID-19 Health Situation:**

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/services>

**COVID-19 Information and Resources for Librarians:**

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/covid-19>

**COVID-19 Resource Information Disability Information & Referral Center (DIRC):**

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/dirc/covidinfo/html>

**Youth Services Resources:** <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/youthservices>

**Census 2020 Information:** <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/census2020>



# Regional Conversations

## COVID-19 Statewide Discussions with Texas Library Staff

The Texas State Library is committed to helping Texas library workers connect with each other during this time of crisis and unprecedented change. Texas is a large state and we recognize the critical differences between its regions. To address these community needs, the Texas State Library's Continuing Education and Consulting (CEC) Team will host a series of online discussions enabling Texas library workers to share concerns and resources with one another. We will take a trauma-informed approach, helping to ensure that library workers are taking care of themselves as well as responding to the needs they see in their communities.

These calls are open to library workers of all levels. Please note, these calls will not be recorded but collaborative notes will be shared afterward with all registrants, including those who were unable to attend. This document will be accessible in the registration confirmation email.

### Join us for a regional conversation!

To sign up for your regional check-in, identify your library's region using the table below and select the corresponding registration link on the right side of the table.

Date/Time	Region	County	Registration Link
Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 10:00 AM CDT	Big Country, Texas Panhandle, Texas Trans- Pecos, and West Texas Regions	Andrews, Bailey, Brewster, Briscoe, Brown, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collingsworth, Comanche, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Crosby, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson, DeafSmith, Dickens, Donley, Eastland, Ector, El Paso, Fisher, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Howard, Hudspeth, Hutchinson, Irion, Jeff Davis, Jones, Kent, Kimble, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Mason, McCulloch, Midland, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Pecos, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Reeves, Runnels, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Swisher, Taylor, Terrell, Terry,	TSLAC Regional Conversation #1: <a href="#">Click here for registration link</a>

**<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/regionalcheckins>**



# Your Questions

Please share with us your ideas, questions, concerns, needs, etc.

*Some questions we have for you:*

- How are you and your staff?
- What can TSLAC do to assist you as we work through this new landscape?
- What are you hearing is needed in your community?
- What kinds of partnerships or collaborations are you forming to assist your community?



# Thank you!

We are looking forward to connecting at the regional conversations!

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